

Serial No. 10/660,183
Customer No. 24498

PF020113

Remarks/Arguments

The Non-Final Office Action mailed May 17, 2007 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. New claims 15-16 have been added. Claim 15 refers to a method in an independent Basic Service Set (IBSS). Claim 16 relates to a bridge device in an IBSS. The new claims are supported by the specification as filed, e.g., on page 8 lines 4-5. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

SPECIFICATION

The disclosure on page 3, lines 30-31 was objected to as having a typographical error, namely the Access Point is incorrectly labeled as #23. Applicant has amended, via the replacement paragraph submitted herewith, lines 30-31 on page 3 of the specification to replace "access point 23" with "access point 26." Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 14 were objected to due to the recitation "adapted to" being interpreted as not constituting a limitation in any patentable sense. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 to delete the term "adapted to" and replace same with "comprising means for." Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

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102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-6 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US 2003/0120763 to Volpano (hereinafter Volpano). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended, *inter alia*:

- to indicate that the device does not have wireless communication capability;
- to clarify that registration is initiated by the bridge; and
- to clarify the step of registering. The amendments are supported by the specification as filed, e.g., on page 5 line 4-15 and page 3, lines 5-12. The claim therefore refers to a method in a Basic Service Set (BSS).

Volpano discloses bridges that comprise means for segregating traffic among stations (STAs) associated with the bridge through a wireless network. According to its Figure 1, Volpano teaches a device that comprises the wireless access point of the wireless network and a bridge. The wireless access point of the wireless network is defined in the IEEE 802.11, Wireless LAN Medium Access Control and Physical Layer Specifications, ISO/IEC 8802- 11:1999(E), ANSI/IEEEStd 802.11, 1999 Edition. The bridge device is the same device as the wireless access point device.

Volpano discloses a method for connecting wireless devices to a wireless network. See e.g., paragraphs [0010] and [0016]. However, Volpano fails to disclose or suggest at least a device not having wireless communication capability, much less connecting a device not having wireless communication capability to a wireless network, essentially as claimed in claims 1 and 14. As such, Volpano fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least the following steps, essentially recited in claims 1 and 14:

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- detecting a connection between the device lacking wireless communication capability and the bridge device;
- determining an address for the device and for the bridge device; and
- separately registering to the access point, with the respective addresses, the device and itself as wireless devices on the wireless network.

Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be not anticipated by Volpano for at least the reasons stated above. Claims 2-6 and 10-13 depend from and include all the limitations of claim 1 and are thus believed to be allowable as well. Withdrawal of the 102(e) rejection in view of Volpano is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/18066 to Bender et al. (hereinafter Bender). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Bender cites techniques of interfacing data terminal equipment units to wireless data networks. More particularly, Bender discloses a wireless modem for connecting a terminal equipment unit located on a wireline to a network unit over a wireless link. The wireless modem comprises a local server for assigning IP address to the terminal equipment unit.

Bender appears to teach a method for connecting a device not having wireless communication capability unit located on a wireline to a network unit over a wireless link. However, Bender does not disclose a method for connecting a device not having wireless communication capability to a wireless network, essentially as claimed in claims 1 and 14. In the present application, connecting to a wireless network is the registration process, as indicated e.g., at least on page 5, lines 4-15.

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Bender teaches, at the level of a device adapted to interface to a wireless link, the steps of detecting a connection between the device and the bridge device and determining an address for the device and for the bridge device (see Bender, page 12 lines 3-14, discussing wherein the wireless modem retrieves a set of IP addresses that it then allocates to the terminal equipment units).

Bender discloses the step of routing packets from/to the device to the network. See Bender, page 5, lines 15-20. It discloses connecting the device to a network unit over a wireless link. However, Bender does not disclose the step of separately registering as a wireless device, with the respective addresses, the device itself to the access point, wherein the registration is performed through an authentication and an association process of the type as defined by the IEEE 802.11 standard, essentially as claimed in claims 1 and 14. Accordingly, claims 1 and 14 are believed to be not anticipated by Bender. Claims 2-3, 5 and 7-9 depend from and include the limitations of claim 1. Withdrawal of the 102(b) rejection in view of Bender is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2003/0112767 to Meier (hereinafter Meier). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Meier discloses a plurality of access point devices that form the OWL concept, which is an open wireless local area network. A wireless subnet 105, referred as an OWL, transparently interconnects the wired subnets 101 and 107. See paragraph [0033]. It provides for wireless transparent bridging via several access points. Each WDAP comprises a bridge protocol stack. See paragraph [0047] and Fig. 4. A wired station 111, 119 can then communicate with a wireless station 116, 118. See paragraph [0040].

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Meier then discloses a method for connecting a device not having wireless communication capability to a wireless network. It discloses a bridge in each access point that permits the wired devices to communicate to the wireless devices.

However, Meier does not disclose or suggest at least separately registering to the access point, with the respective addresses, the device and the bridge as wireless devices on the wireless network, wherein the registration is performed through an authentication and an association process of the type as defined by the IEEE 802.11 standard, essentially as claimed in claims 1 and 14. Accordingly, claims 1 and 14 are believed to be not anticipated by Meier. Withdrawal of the 102(b) rejection in view of Meier is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims set forth in the Non Final Office Action of May 17, 2007 be withdrawn, that pending Claims 1-16 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

In the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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